

12 December 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue Northwest, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

A2012-101

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2011 DEC 22 A 10:01

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Closure of the Cardwell, Montana Post Office

It is evident that the Post Office Authorities did not do thorough and accurate research in regards to closure of the Post Office in Cardwell, Montana. They stated it is only seven [7] miles from Cardwell to Whitehall. This is inaccurate. The correct mileage is 9.6 miles on the interstate and 9.8 miles on the old road from the Cardwell Post Office to the Whitehall Post Office.

There are many small businesses, such as Clays In Calico, who depend on the nearness of the Post Office to conduct business each day throughout the year. It takes a good 15 minutes to get into town when the roads are good, when the weather is inclement it takes longer. Clays In Calico only has one person there to conduct business, mail out packages containing orders, and take care of the customers. If we have to close the shop for a half an hour to take packages in to Whitehall to be weighed and the postage figured and then back in order to complete the order process and then close it again to run the packages back to Whitehall in order to be sent, it takes away the productiveness of the shop, besides being terribly inconvenient. As it stands at this time, we can leave the shop open and run across the street – a couple of minutes and then back to the shop – complete the order and run it back across the street to complete the mailing process. Just minutes versus hours. If we have a customer we just run back across the street. We don't lose customers or business, unlike having to completely shut down in order to go to Whitehall. In addition, the Post Office in Whitehall is out of the way.

Our small businesses rely on the Cardwell Post Office to be our retail outlet. Clays In Calico does not have a computer in the shop. Clay dust and computers do not a match make. Therefore we are unable to use the services offered by the Post Office online. Perhaps if the Post Office did less business online, and continued utilizing it's own services it would do better. Almost seems like they are shooting themselves in the foot.

It appears that you are trying to put small businesses out of business by closing down the Post Offices in rural states such as Montana.


Misty Hammerbacker for

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